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HE-MAN AND THE MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE®

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JAN 2013

THE HARMONY SEA

... LESSON IN FUTILITY, "YOUR MAJESTY."

AT LEAST I'M DOING *SOME*THING. AND WOULD YOU, PLEASE, STOP WITH THE "YOUR MAJESTY"?

IF IT DOESN'T RAIN SOON, WON'T MATTER WHAT YOU CATCH. NOT THAT YOU STAND A CHANCE OF CATCHING ANYTHING WITH *THAT* SET-UP.

MUST YOU ALWAYS BE SO NEGATIVE?

I'M NOT NEGATIVE, I'M A *REALIST.*

I STAND CORRECTED.

I'M ALSO ROASTING IN THIS HEAT.

AND YOU SAID WE HAD NOTHING IN COMMON.

SERIOUSLY. HOW DO YOU FORGET YOU'RE A PRINCE?

WE'RE TAKING THE FISH-MAN'S WORD FOR IT?

MER-MAN.

WHY WOULD HE MAKE IT UP? I MEAN, HE MEANT TO KILL US, RIGHT?

HE MEANT TO KILL *ME*. I THINK YOU WERE JUST IN THE WAY.

HARDY-HAR-HAR.

HEY! MIRAGE BIRD! MAKE YOURSELF USEFUL! FIND LAND OR A PASSING SHIP OR WHATEVER!

I THINK YOU HURT ITS FEELINGS.

I THINK I DON'T CARE.

HOW LONG DO YOU FIGURE WE CAN LIVE WITHOUT WATER?

YOU DON'T WANT TO KNOW.

YOU'RE RIGHT.

SO...WHAT SET YOU OFF ON ALL OF THIS?

I WAS HAVING... DREAMS.

HEROISM? POWER? THWARTING EVIL? SOME GUY WITH A SKULL FACE?

EXACTLY! HOW DID YOU KNOW?

I DIDN'T. THAT'S THE STUFF *I'VE* BEEN DREAMING ABOU--

CLONK

DID YOU SEE THAT!? DID YOU *SEE!?*

SCRAG-DRAGGIN' BIRD DROPPED A COCONUT ON MY HEAD!

YEAH, YOU'D BEST FLY AWAY! IF IT WAS POSSIBLE TO GET MY HANDS ON YOU I'D...

...I'D...

WHERE'D IT GET A COCONUT? *HOW'D* IT GET A COCONUT?

...

ADAM? REMEMBER WHEN I TOLD YOU THAT JURY-RIGGING A SET OF OARS WAS A WASTE OF TIME AND EFFORT?

UM-HM...

I CHANGED MY MIND.

YOU KNOW, WHEN YOU SAID "OARS" I ASSUMED *ONE* WAS FOR YOU.

ROWING GIVES YOU MAN MUSCLES.

YOU JUST MADE THAT UP.

GUILTY.

YOU FEEL IT TOO?

IF YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THE FEELING THAT WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE HERE...YES.

HOW CREEPY IS THAT, CONSIDERING WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE *HERE* IS?

NO CREEPIER THAN ANYTHING ELSE THAT'S HAPPENED SINCE--

ALREADY!? WE JUST *GOT* HERE!

I'M BEGINNING TO THINK JOINING UP WITH YOU WAS A *REALLY* BAD...

PFT

THUP

...IDE...A...

THEY'D BEST BE ALIVE.

SEE 'EM BREATHIN', DON'CHER?

AS LONG AS THEY'RE STILL BREATHING WHEN BROUGHT BEFORE HER MAJESTY.

WANTS TO SEE 'EM DEAD BY 'ER OWN HAND, EH?

GONNA BE A WHILE 'FORE THEY WAKES UP. GIVE 'EM A GOOD DOSE, I DID.

SIGH... LESS TALK, MORE ACTION. GET THEM IN RESTRAINTS AND LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH.

THERE IT IS. THERE IT IS ***AGAIN.*** MISTER HIGH-MUCKIN' MAN-AT-ARMS SOUNDIN' LIKE HE GOT BETTER THINGS T' DO THAN SERVE HER WILL.

CAULDRON of DOOM

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HOW YOU FIGGERIN' SHE KNEW THESE TWO'D BE COMIN' ALONG?

I'M NOT.

C'MON A'READY! NOT EVEN TH' TEENSIEST BIT'A CURIOUS HERE?

"CURIOUS" GETS YOU THROWN INTO THE CAULDRON. YOU MIGHT WANT TO KEEP THAT IN MIND.

THEM WHAT SERVES ALL LOYAL-LIKE AIN'T GOT NO REASON T' FEAR TH' CAULDRON.

YOU KEEP TELLING YOURSELF THAT.

JUST MIGHT. JUST MIGHT AT THAT.

HEH...YEAH, SHE A RIPE PIECE, IN'T SHE? BEEN SNEAKING PEEKS M'SELF--

CLOK

WHUZZAT!? Y'CLAIMIN' HER F'YER OWN, Y'JUST GOTTA *SEZ* SO!

NO NEED F'LIKE THIS! *WHUZIS* ALL ABOUT!?

EXQUISITE! *TRULY* EXQUISITE! DO YOU KNOW HOW LONG I HAVE WAITED FOR THIS MOMENT?

NO, MAJESTY.

JUST AS WELL. THE QUESTION *WAS* RHETORICAL.

MY APOLOGIES, MAJESTY.

DO NOT! DO *NOT* RUIN THIS MOMENT FOR ME WITH YOUR... YOUR...

WOEFUL IGNORANCE?

WOEFUL IGNORANCE, YES. WELL PUT.

YOU *ARE* CERTAIN THE BONDS WILL HOLD THEM? I'LL NOT TOLERATE ANOTHER INCIDENT LIKE--

THEY ARE *QUITE* SECURED, MAJESTY. THE REENFORCING ENCHANTMENT GUARANTEES--

SHE *IS* A PRETTY ONE, IS SHE NOT? NO, NO, DON'T BOTHER DENYING IT. YOU'VE HAD YOUR EYE ON HER FROM THE MOMENT YOU ARRIVED.

SHE IS... *FAMILIAR* TO ME.

AH, AH! I'LL HAVE *NONE* OF *THAT*.

IF IT DOES NOT ORIGINATE FROM ME IT IS IRRELEVANT.

SAY IT. *SAY* IT!

SIGHS... IF IT DOES NOT--

IT'S OFFICIAL. SHE'S A LOON.

A LITTLE *LOUDER* PERHAPS? HASTEN OUR DEATHS?

ARE YOU LISTENING TO HER?

EVIL-LYN. HER NAME IS EVIL-LYN.

WELL? I'M WAITING.

... YOU'VE *MET!?*

NO. YES. MAYBE.

HERE WE GO AGAIN.

WAITING?

DID I OR DID I NOT ASK YOU A QUESTION?

UH-OH.

WELL? *DID* I?

THINK FAST!

ABOUT!?

JUST SAY "*YES.*" THE ONLY THING THIS BREED OF LOON HATES MORE THAN BEING IGNORED IS BEING DISAGREED WITH.

THAT CERTAIN?

HAVEN'T YOU BEEN LISTENING TO THE WAY SHE TALKS TO MY FATHER?

...

WELL, *THAT* WAS INTERESTING.

!!

ARROGANT WHELP! ONE IGNORES HER MAJESTY AT ONE'S RISK!

THOK

YES! YES TO WHATEVER, OKAY? YES.

MUCH BETTER!

FATHER?

TAKE THEM AND HAVE THEM PREPPED. IT HAS BEEN TOO LONG SINCE THE CAULDRON HAS SEEN GENUINE CONFLICT.

SEE THAT? TONIGHT WILL BE *SPECIAL!*

CAULDRON? PREPPED? JUST *WHAT* HAVE I AGREED TO?

YOU'VE AGREED TO NOTHING. YOU WERE CAULDRON FODDER FROM THE MOMENT YOU SET FOOT ON THE ISLAND.

HER MAJESTY DRAWS AS MUCH PLEASURE FROM THE PROCESS AS FROM THE EVENT.

AND THE EVENT IS...?

BLOODY.

SHOULD HAVE SEEN *THAT* COMING.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "AM I CERTAIN"? ARE YOU *DOUBTING* ME!?

NEVER.

YOU'VE BEEN DISAPPOINTED BY THE OTHERS. I CAN UNDERSTAND THAT. THEY ARE NOT EVIL-LYN AND ARE THUS THAT FAR REMOVED FROM PERFECTION.

I, HOWEVER, *AM* EVIL-LYN. I DO *NOT* ERR.

I AM.. GRATEFUL FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING.

YOU WILL SEE TO HIS IMMEDIATE EXECUTION?

I WILL DO NOTHING OF THE KIND. BOTH OF THEM WILL BE SACRIFICED TO THE CAULDRON.

YOU REALLY SHOULD TRY TO ATTEND. IT IS *QUITE* THE FESTIVE GALA.

I DON'T SUPPOSE I COULD PETITION HER. "MAJESTY" TO CUT PRINCE ADAM'S THROAT AND BE DONE WITH IT?

WHERE IS THE SPECTACLE IN THAT?

BE OF GOOD FAITH, SKELETOR, HE-MAN SHALL DIE.

YOU DO NOT INVOKE THAT NAME DO YOU *HEAR* ME!? YOU DO NOT

DEAD AND GONE. YOU HAVE MY WORD.

THE WORD OF A *MAD*WOMAN!

YOU THOUGHT ENOUGH OF HER TO ENLIST HER TO YOUR CAUSE. A BIT LATE TO BE SECOND-GUESSING YOURSELF.

HER POWERS RIVAL MINE. IT'S BEST THAT SHE IS KEPT...AMUSED. WERE SHE TO PUT HER MIND TO IT, SHE COULD POSE A SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGE TO ME.

I SEE. AS LONG AS SHE REMAINS IN HER PLACE SHE IS USEFUL?

THAT IS ONE WAY OF PUTTING IT.

WHY DO THEY *ALL* FEEL THE NEED TO COMPLICATE THIS?

HISTORIES.

HISTORY!?

HISTOR*IES*. HISTORIES OF DEFEAT AND HUMILIATION. EACH OF THEM HAVE REASONS TO HATE THE MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE. VERY ***PERSONAL*** REASONS.

YOU ARE NO DIFFERENT. ***WE*** ARE NO DIFFERENT.

CHOOSE YOUR NEXT WORDS CAREFULLY.

*JUST **KILLING*** HIM IS NOT ENOUGH. A QUICK DEATH, EVEN AT THE R HANDS, WOULD BE MOST... UNSATISFACTORY.

VENGEANCE AND VANITY HAVE MORE IN COMMON THAN A FIRST LETTER.

IF YOUR PREFERENCE WAS A QUICK DEATH, YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER SERVED PAYING YOUR BROTHERHOOD OF ASSASSINS.

MY PREFERENCE IS ***ANY*** DEATH AS LONG AS HE ***DIES!***

THEN STEP IN. SEE IT DONE.

ABANDON GRAYSKULL? WHEN I AM SO CLOSE TO...

YOU ARE NO CLOSER TO TAPPING THE POWER OF GRAYSKULL THAN YOU WERE WHEN YOU FIRST TOOK YOUR SORCERESS CAPTIVE.

YOU CANNOT LIE TO ME. YOU FEAR THAT IF YOU LEAVE GRAYSKULL YOU MAY BE UNABLE TO RETURN. SHE HAS BEEN TORTURED TO NEAR DEATH AND *STILL* YOU FEAR HER.

YOU...DARE! YOU *DARE* SPEAK TO ME IN THAT MANNER.?

SHE *IS*... FORMIDABLE.

SHE IS THE KEY TO THE POWER OF GRAYSKULL.

IS SHE? OR IS THAT WHAT SHE WOULD HAVE YOU BELIEVE?

THERE IS NO GREATER DECEPTION THAN WILLINGLY SUFFERING FOR A CAUSE THAT DOES NOT EXIST.

IF SUCH IS THE CASE I WILL INCREASE HER SUFFERING ONE HUNDREDFOLD! SHE WILL *BEG* ME FOR DEATH!

SPEAKING OF DEATH.. I CANNOT HAVE THIS CONVERSATION LEAVE THIS CHAMBER.

FEAR NOT, SERVILE ONE, I WILL MAKE IT QUICK.

YOU, GIRL. WHAT MANNER OF ENCHANTRESS ARE YOU?

DO I LOOK LIKE AN ENCHANTRESS TO YOU?

I HAVE DREAMT OF YOU. THERE HAS NOT BEEN ONE NIGHT THAT YOU HAVE NOT HAUNTED MY SLEEP.

...

ARE YOU MY FATHER?

I THINK HE TOOK THAT WELL, DON'T YOU?

FATHER? *SERIOUSLY?*

HE SEEMED TO THINK SO. I KNOW *I* DO.

SO...WHATEVER'S GOING ON, IT'S NOT JUST US.

APPARENTLY. THE BIG QUESTION IS; WHAT, EXACTLY, *IS* GOING ON?

BY NOW THAT SHOULD BE OBVIOUS.

WE'RE BEING MANIPULATED.

BY THAT BIRD THING'S MASTER?

THAT WOULD BE MY GUESS.

BUT TO WHAT *END!?*

"MAYBE YOU SHOULD ASK YOUR FATHER."

...SEEING HOW WE'RE PROBABLY GOING TO DIE SOON, DO YOU SUPPOSE YOU COULD LIFT THE SILENT TREATMENT? IT WAS A BAD JOKE. I ADMIT IT. I M SORRY.

DINK!

I'LL TAKE THAT AS A SIGN OF PROGRESS.

DOUBLE DINK!

NOW YOU RE JUST BEING CRUEL.

APPLAUSE, MY BELOVED SUBJECTS! GREET OUR GUESTS IN A MANNER BEFITTING THE R FATE!

SHOWER THEM WITH GRATITUDE FOR THEIR SACRIFICE!

"SACRIFICE". OH, YEAH. I LIKE THE SOUND OF *THAT*.

VOLCANO...SACRIFICE... HOW DID WE *NOT* SEE THIS COMING?

YOU SEE? YOU *SEE* HOW MY SUBJECTS HONOR YOU? CAULDRON IS A *GIFT* FREELY GIVEN!

BY YOUR METTLE WILL YOU PROVE YOURSELF WORTHY! ONLY ONE LEAVES THE CAULDRON ALIVE! TO THE DEATH! ONE TO THE CAULDRON, THE OTHER TO *GLORY!*

YOU BUYING ANY OF THIS?

NOT A WORD.

YOU UP TO ENTERTAINING THIS CROWD?

NOT A BIT.

PLAY IT BY EAR?

WE HAVE A CHOICE?

I'M GOING TO SAY... *"NO."*

LET THE CAULDRON BE LIT!

LET THERE BE *COMBAT!*

WE'LL *FRY* BEFORE WE FIGHT FOR YOUR AMUSEMENT!

WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT FRY--

--INGH!

!!

THPT

OKAY. I GET IT NOW.

GET WHAT?

MAKE IT LOOK GOOD.

MAKE *WHAT* LOOK--

WE STOP FIGHTING, *THEY* START SHOOTING.

THOK

--GOO-HFF?!

BUT YOU'RE WOUNDED!

I NOTICED.

SO, HOW'S THAT WHOLE "PLAYING IT BY EAR" THING COMING ALONG?

THAT'S FOR BEING A SMART-MOUTH.

KLOP

IF WE CAN MANEUVER CLOSE ENOUGH TO THE GUARD, MAYBE I CAN--

GET SHOT BEFORE YOU GOT CLOSE ENOUGH TO DO ANY DAMAGE.

THEN IT BECOMES A *REAL* FIGHT.

YOU'RE *REALLY* GOING TO TRY TO THROW ME INTO THAT--

NO. BUT *YOU'RE* PROBABLY GOING TO TRY TO STOP ME FROM JUMPING.

EXHILARATING, IS IT NOT? AND THE RABBLE DO SO LOVE THE SPECTACLE.

IF SHE DIES, I'LL KILL YOU.

WHAT? WHAT WAS THAT? SPEAK UP, FOOL!

I... I-I... IT WAS NOTHING, MAJESTY. MERELY THINKING...

...OUT LOUD...

THAT'S *NOT* A SOLUTION!

IT WILL SAVE *YOUR* LIFE!

YOU *BELIEVED* HER!?

SLIM HOPE IS BETTER THAN NO HOPE AT ALL!

THAT'S *NOT* YOUR DECISION TO MAKE!

RHGH!

IDIOT BIRD! GET *THEM,* NOT...

...US?

ADAM!

next issue:
The SWORD and the SORCERESS!